

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A material for use as self-lubricating sliding parts, ~~which consists is~~ made of a steel containing, by mass, from not less than 0.4 % to less than 1.5 % of C (carbon), 0.1 to 3.0 % of Si, 0.1 to 3.0 % of Mn, from ~~inclusive-zero~~ (inclusive) to 0.5 % of Cr, 0.05 to 3.0 % of Ni, 0.3 to 2.0 % of Al, 0.3 to 20 % in total (Mo + W + V) of at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo, W (tungsten) and V (vanadium), and 0.05 to 3.0 % of Cu, ~~wherein there can be observed graphite.~~ Graphite particles having an average particle size of not more than 3 μm can be observed in a section of the metal structure of the steel. The steel ~~is~~ can also be used as piston rings. In the steel, the graphite particles observed in the structural section occupy an area rate of not less than 1 % in the overall area of the structural section, and have an average particle size of not more than 3 μm . The steel may further contain not more than 0.3 % of S and/or not more than 0.01 % of Ca. The steel is subjected to nitriding treatment for use.